

**Help America Vote Act Team Meeting**

**February 14, 2003**

**State House 233**

**Indianapolis**

Members of the team present were:

Todd Rokita, Secretary of State

Billie Breaux, State Senator

Amos Brown, Radio One

Dick Dodge, Steuben Co. Commissioner

Nick Rhoad, Disability Community Representative

Brad King, Indiana Election Division

Kristi Robertson, Indiana Election Division

Suellen Jackson-Boner, Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities

Jon Laramore, Office of the Governor

Robin Winston, Democratic Party Representative

Christa Adkins, Libertarian Party Representative

Zach Main, Republican Party Representative

Laura Herzog, Hendricks Co. Election Board

Tami Barreto, League of Women Voters

Doris Anne Sadler, Marion Co. Clerk

Joe Ryan, Military Representative

Mike Kiefer, Military Representative

Others present were:

Heather Sewell, Deputy Secretary of State

Dale Simmons, Indiana Election Division

Julia Vaughn, Common Cause

Holly M. Davis

At 1:05 p.m., Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita called the meeting to order. Secretary Rokita stressed the importance of the team as Indiana moves to implement the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). He went on to explain that the Bi-partisan Task Force on Election Integrity, convened in 2001 by Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy and Governor Frank O'Bannon, was to generate ideas, many of which were incorporated into HAVA. The focus of this team would be to find ways to implement the provisions in HAVA. Secretary Rokita expressed his willingness to give everyone a seat at the table, including the two major parties and the one minority party in Indiana, the disability community, military representatives, as well as clerks, legislators, and voter registration administrators. He defined his role as team Chairman, chief lobbyist, and spokesman around the state. He asked members to help lobby the congressional delegation, as well as the General Assembly.

Secretary Rokita then gave an overview of the materials, and the members introduced themselves.

Brad King and Kristi Robertson outlined the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and explained the five main issues that HAVA deals with: (1) Statewide Voter File; (2) Voting Equipment, (3) Polling Place Accessibility, (4) Training and Education, and (5) Election Administration. For each issue, Mr. King and Ms. Robertson explained the requirements laid out in the law and other topics the team would need to explore, including provisional ballots, Voter's Bill of Rights, and pending legislation before the Indiana General Assembly.

Of particular note, HB 1541 (Weinzapfel), SB268 (Skillman), and SB477 (C. Lawson), encompass broad implementation procedures for HAVA requirements and accessibility and standards at polling locations. As the Indiana General Assembly is currently in session, Secretary Rokita suggested the team tackle issues with a legislative impact first.

Ms. Robertson informed team members of the timeline for the team's work, specifically the HAVA required deadline of July 1, 2003 for a plan to be drafted, followed by a 30-day public comment period. The plan would then be finalized and submitted to the Federal Government. Mr. King joined her in laying out which elements of HAVA would be covered in each subcommittee.

Secretary Rokita asked each member to choose which committee they would like to sit on, fill out a contact roster, indicate a time preference for meeting, and return that information by Wednesday, February 19. Secretary Rokita continued to say that the team should meet

weekly, beginning February 28, until they know they will meet the July 1 deadline. Senator Billie Breaux reminded team members that the Senate Election Committee would be meeting on Monday, February 17 to discuss S268.

Secretary Rokita recognized Julia Vaughn, Common Cause, who pointed out that it would be difficult for one person to sit on two subcommittees if they meet simultaneously. Secretary Rokita promised to find a solution. John Laramore suggested that meeting times be posted on the Secretary of State's website. Robin Winston asked if those affected by HAVA (i.e. county elected officials) were informed about the team and its task. Efforts by Secretary Rokita and the Indiana Election Division co-directors to inform the Clerks Association, the Association of Indian Counties, and the county commissioners are continuing to be made.

Secretary Rokita adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.